

Sports & Leisure

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Junior Spartans win playoff opener

The Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Spartans junior boys' hockey team won the starting contest Thursday afternoon at the Rec Centre.

The Spartans downed Cardinal Carter C.H.S. 3-1 in the York Region Athletic Association first-round playoff showdown.



The game was scoreless heading into the third period before the visitors blinked first, opening the gates for three straight SDSS goals. Cardinal Carter finally broke Spartans' goalkeeper Richard Lynn's bid for a shutout with a goal from a goal-mouth scramble in the game's final minute.

Spartans co-coach Ron Dempster said the game was a text book example of why it is crucial to get on the scoreboard first in a hockey game.

"Bill (Spartans' co-coach McKnight) is always stressing how important it is to get that first goal," said Dempster. "Once you get the ball rolling it's hard to catch up."

The game was marked by close checking and sharp passing for the first two periods as both teams tried to break through.

"Everyone was afraid to make any mistakes," said Dempster.

Brad Clubine, Brett Jennings and Peter Mabley had the Spartans goals.

It was the third close win over Cardinal Carter this season for the Spartans, who prevailed in a league match and a tournament encounter. The Spartans finished second in the eight-team YRAA league with a record of seven wins and just one loss. Cardinal Carter was seventh.

Thursday's victory sends the Spartans on to the YRAA semi-finals. They will most likely play King City S.S. at the Rec Centre on March 5.

SENIOR GIRLS VOLLEY PAST OPPONENTS, MIDGETS ELIMINATED

And then there was one. The Spartans midget and senior girls' volleyball teams put their respective seasons on the line in playoff action Monday, with the senior squad advancing while their midget counterparts fell short.

Novice selects downed in semis

The Stouffville novice selects skated as far as the semi-finals at the Scarborough City Cougars Tournament last weekend.

The selects, who were entered in their first tournament of the year, dumped the host Cougars 7-3 in their first outing as Ben Sampson led the way with four goals. Mikhael Metauro, Jeremy Schell and Justin Lawrence had the other Stouffville goals.

Assists went to Sampson and Metauro (two

The senior Spartans defeated their Markham H.S. opponents in a three game set at the playoff cross over at the Stouffville school.

The SDSS crew took the first game 15-2, but were edged 16-14 in game two forcing a third and deciding match.

The Spartans won the deciding game 15-11. The SDSS team was without the services of offensive bulwark and team captain Alison Crowder.

The victory sent the SDSS girls on to Friday's YRAA playoff tournament at Middlefield C.I. in Markham.

The top two teams at the eight-team round robin go on to contest the YRAA finals Tuesday in Toronto.

Spartans' coach Heather Henricks, whose team finished first in the southeast division, was confident about her team's chances.

"We're in the top three or four," said Henricks. "If we play our best, we should be able to make the finals."

With the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association (OFSAA) championships slated for York Region this year, the region gets to send two teams instead of the usual one.

"That gives us an even better chance of going to the provincial finals," said Henricks.

Meanwhile the midget Spartans were packing up their equipment for the season after dropping a hard fought three-game set to Middlefield in Monday's playoff match up between the two teams in Unionville. The SDSS outfit took the first game, but Middlefield rebounded to take the next two to win it. The Spartans finished third in the southeast regular season standings.

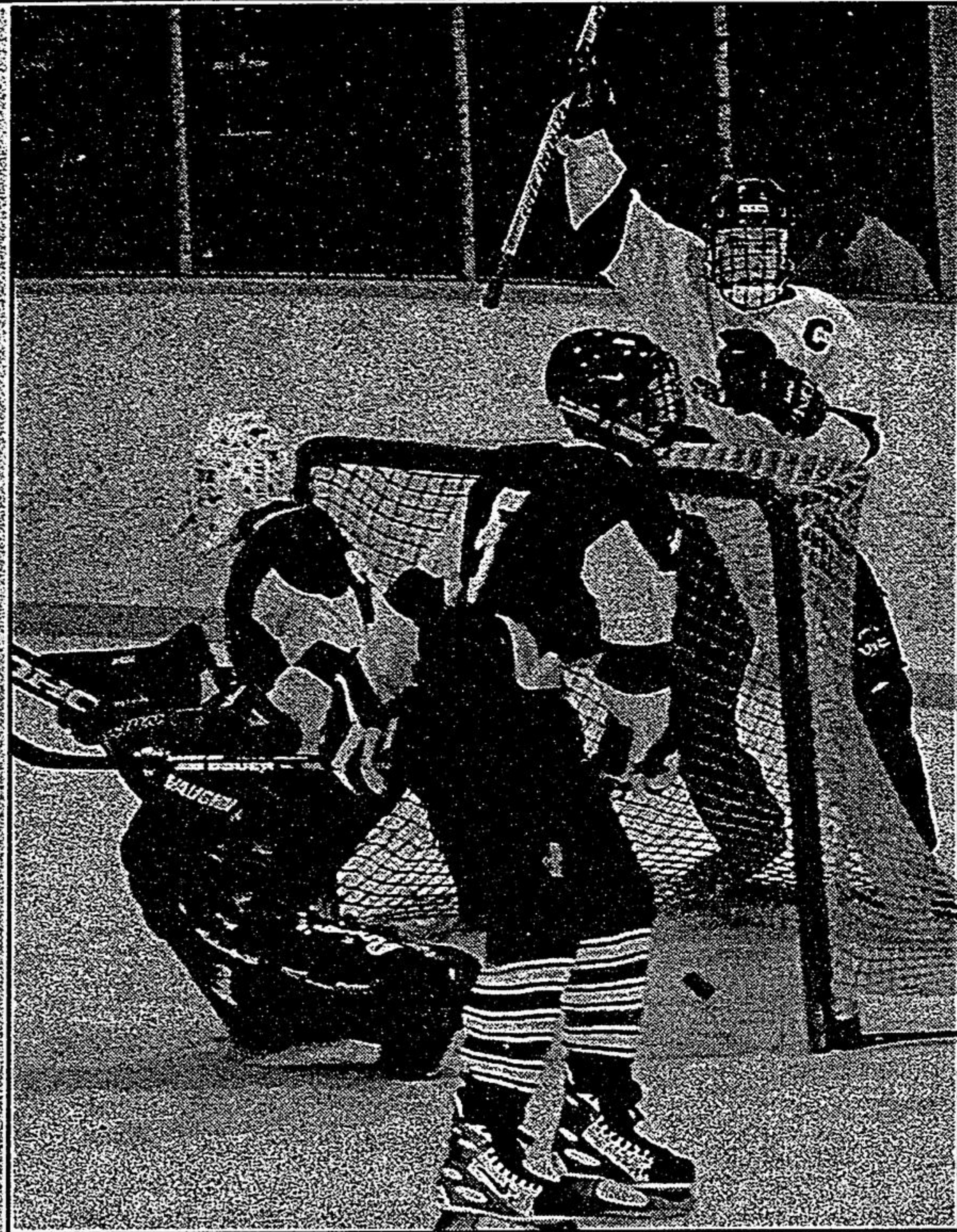
SCHOOL TO FIELD TWO GIRLS' LACROSSE TEAMS

SDSS will field two girls' lacrosse teams this spring, with a rookie team to be added to the established junior varsity squad.

With no official girls' lacrosse program in York Region, the season will once again consist of tournament play. Henricks and Tami Waters will act as coaches once again. Indoor practices are to begin after March Break.

each), Justin Lougheed and Kurt Brillinger.

Game two with West Hill ended up in a 2-2 tie as Sampson and Metauro looked after the Stouffville scoring while assisting on each other's goals. The win and draw was enough to send the Stouffville squad on to the semi-finals against a strong Wexford crew, which prevailed 7-3. Metauro had two goals for Stouffville, with Lawrence adding the third. Assists went to Sampson, Lougheed and Davis.



TIME TO CELEBRATE: Stouffville District Secondary School's Brad Clubine (white uniform), raises his stick in celebration as he scored a goal during action in Thursday's YRAA junior boys' hockey playoff game against Cardinal Carter Catholic High School at the Rec Centre. The host Spartans won the game 3-1.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Smooth sailing for major atom Clippers

The Greyfield-Metro Waste major atom Clippers are undefeated in second season playoff action, sporting eight wins and a tie.

The Clippers began their roll with a 5-2 win over Newmarket, then hung a double defeat of 6-1 and 9-0 on Ajax in a home-and-home set.

The past eight days has seen the Clippers play six times.

They started with a 1-1 tie with Whitby, then followed with wins of 4-1 over Pickering, 5-1 and 3-1 home-and-away wins over Keswick, 3-1 over Markham and 4-1 against Whitby.

Leading the Stouffville scorers was

Gabe Barnett with seven goals and four assists. Todd Nesbitt was good for five goals and six assists. Justin Lyons had four goals and six assists. Brandon Wild, five goals, three assists. Luke Dawson, four goals, three assists. Josh Spang, two goals, five assists. Cam MacKenzie, three goals, three assists. Lee Maxwell, six assists. Brad Steckley, three goals, two assists. Scott Robinson, three goals, one assist. Jon Wonch, two goals, two assists. Richard Little, one goal, three assists. Len Spiteri, three assists. Dom Metauro and Brian Hillar handled goaltending duties.



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